

1 BY GRAND JUROR:

2 Q Do you know when something has been
3 brought to the JQC's knowledge? Does it go through you
4 first, or can people -- how would someone go around you
5 to get to the JQC?

6 A File something directly with the JQC.
7 Sometimes the General Counsel, Tom McDonald, will call
8 me and he says, "Dennis, this thing -- I got a thing
9 here about Judge Hill, he said something in court on
10 June 25th. Do you mind giving me the file and the
11 transcript?" So I'd order a copy of the transcript.
12 So this way it wouldn't look like JQC is ordering the
13 transcript.

14 I'd get the transcript, the file, put it
15 together, send it to Tom McDonald. Tom would call me
16 after he's looked through it. He says, "Well," he
17 says, "let's get together with the judge."

18 Tom McDonald, myself, the judge, and
19 sometimes the chair of the JQC would sit down in my
20 chambers and have a little heart to heart talk with the
21 judge. Say, you know, "This hasn't risen to the level
22 of a misconduct, all right. But if you keep on on this
23 path of conduct, it's going to get you in deep trouble.
24 We ask that you don't do this anymore."

25 If it happens, being that the JQC has

1 already had an informal type meeting with the judge,
2 the next time the JQC would probably file a Notice of
3 Inquiry into that judge's conduct. So a lot of these
4 things are handled, you know, at the circuit level.

5 Q But do you ever know who brings them
6 about?

7 A No.

8 Q Or are they done anonymously?

9 A No. No. Complaints from the JQC are
10 normally, normally confidential.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Secret. You have -- you have no idea who
13 does it.

14 GRAND JUROR: Okay.

15 MR. HILL: Question, ma'am?

16 BY GRAND JUROR:

17 Q My other question was if a judge wanted
18 to have a lock changed on a door, for what reasons that
19 you would approve this or you do not approve it?

20 A Security.

21 Q Security reasons being that you will
22 approve it or you will not?

23 A No, I -- if a judge wants the locks
24 changed, I go and tell the county and go ahead and get
25 it changed. See, the county is in charge of security

1 and door locks and so forth, you know. We'll just
2 telling the county go ahead and get it done.

3 Q So basically all the judge needs to do is
4 ask?

5 A All they have to do is request it, yeah.

6 Q Okay.

7 A All they have to do is request it. Now,
8 Judge Holder has requested that at the beginning, and
9 we talked about that. And I said, you know, it's kind
10 of a bad policy to start that. I'm thinking of some
11 other things of maybe issuing an Administrative Order
12 advising all judges to stay out of other judges'
13 offices unless you're invited.

14 Q But if he's asked that before, why wasn't
15 his locks changed?

16 A Because he told me to hold off on it.

17 Q Okay.

18 A And he just asked during this incident,
19 not before this.

20 Q Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. HILL: Yes, sir.

22 GRAND JUROR: One quick question here.

23 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

24 BY GRAND JUROR:

25 Q In three words, I have an answer to my

1 own question but I want to hear it from you, how would
2 you describe your leadership style when it comes to
3 managing the troops, which are now 41?

4 A I'm not a micromanager. I let basically
5 every judge do their job. The only time I get involved
6 is when I get a complaint where a litigant or a lawyer
7 can't get a hearing, where I get a complaint that a
8 judge is sleeping or running late constantly, then I
9 act on it. But basically every judge is responsible
10 for running their own calendar.

11 Q So once a year you might have a banquet
12 around Christmastime or whatever, you get all the
13 lawyers in town, so to speak, do you ever have a little
14 party or program or just, "Hey, fellas," and the ethics
15 plaque is on your wall; do you sort of point to it and
16 remind them of it, or is that necessary?

17 In my profession you had to sort of take
18 an ethics course at the graduate level or things like
19 that, which is pretty much a routine. Is that part of
20 the training of the legal profession in this community?

21 A We started -- this year I was one of the
22 ones who started, in fact last year, started what we
23 call a committee dealing with professionalism among the
24 lawyers and also among the judges, you know.

25 But, you know, the way I look at it is

1 that I'm not my brother's keeper. We're talking here
2 about individuals that are educated, you know, and I
3 can't -- I can't hold my brother's hand 24 hours a day.

4 I've got 49 judges. I've got a little
5 over a \$20 million budget. You know, we just don't --
6 I just don't -- we just don't hear cases. We've got
7 numerous programs that we have, and you normally have
8 that in a big circuit, you know.

9 I've got, other than the judges and their
10 J.A.s I've got 130 employees. So I can't, you know,
11 tell Judge Holder or Judge Bonanno, "Bob, I don't want
12 you going into Greg's office, or, Greg, I don't want
13 you talking to the media, or, you know, I don't want
14 you doing this, you know, I want you coming in at
15 8:30."

16 I can't -- I don't want to put a time
17 clock where they have to punch in. These individuals
18 are elected by the public in Hillsborough County. That
19 is their ultimate decision-maker, all right.

20 They're just like me, all right. The
21 only advantage that I have over them, and basically not
22 much, is the Rules of Judicial Administration that give
23 me very, very little authority over a judge. They make
24 the same amount of money as I do, all right, except I
25 get all the headaches.

1 If a judge doesn't something good, the
2 judge gets all the credit. If a judge does something
3 bad, then I get all the credit. It's a no-win
4 situation. But I enjoy my job. I love my job. And
5 I've been at it 13 years, and my colleagues must think
6 I'm doing a good job. But it's hard, it's extremely
7 hard as you get bigger to keep a tab on everything that
8 48 other judges do.

9 Q Okay. One more. I'm sorry. So far you
10 have not given us any reason, not that you should, of
11 why Greg would come in that Monday morning meeting with
12 a hard nose, when you've described prior to that
13 Bonanno's and Greg's other relationship was cordial,
14 professional; they don't play golf necessarily on
15 Saturday morning, but things looked like they were
16 going all right, nothing boiling over. What caused
17 that guy to become so hard-nosed? Think about it.
18 Come back. Here's my --

19 A Oh, no, I can -- I can tell you my
20 thoughts on it. I think --

21 Q You enumerated his leak to the press. He
22 had certain reputations.

23 A I think -- I think Greg had a personal
24 agenda. I don't think -- maybe he didn't want to be
25 Chief Judge, although now I believe he did. And I

1 figured if he exposes this, there's no way Bonanno will
2 get the support of the rest of the judges.

3 I think that was the bottom dollar. I
4 really think that this thing should have been handled
5 in-house. We should not be here on this.

6 GRAND JUROR: Thank you.

7 MR. HILL: Any other questions?

8 THE WITNESS: And I respect, Jerry. I'm
9 glad he got it. I know he's going to do a good
10 job on it. But that's my own personal opinion;
11 this should have been handled in-house.

12 MR. HILL: Thank you. We appreciate
13 that.

14 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Jerry.

15 MR. HILL: We remind you, as if we needed
16 to, that what we say here stays here.

17 THE WITNESS: Okay. Thank you very much.
18 Thank you. Have a good day.

19 MR. HILL: I'll see you, sir. Take care
20 of yourself.

21 THE WITNESS: If you need anything else
22 I'll be around.

23 (The witness left the Grand Jury room.)
24
25

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

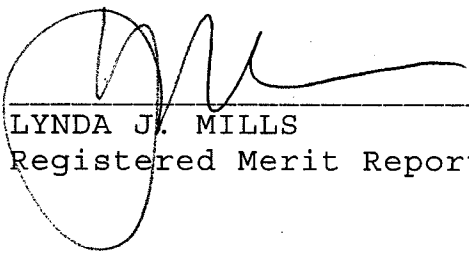
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14 DATED this 13th day of March, 2001.

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